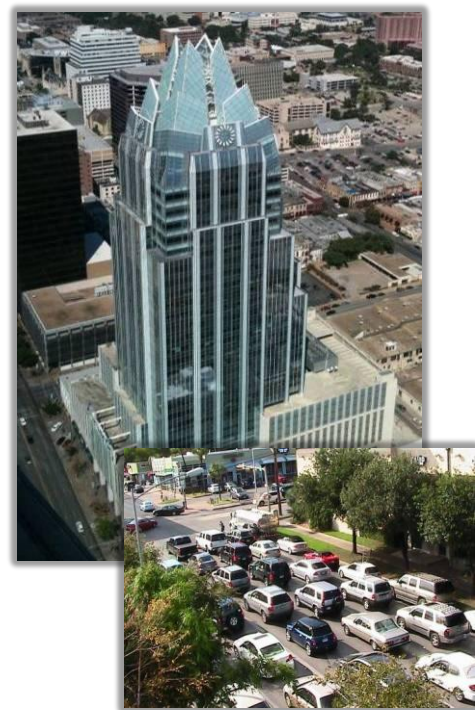


# Urban Rail Project Connect & Transit Working Group

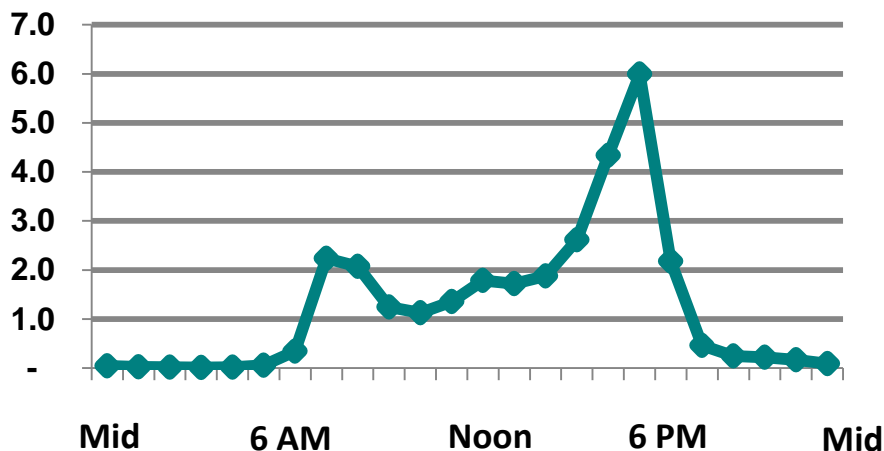
**City of Austin Bond Election Advisory Task Force**  
**Robert Spillar, P.E., Director, Austin Transportation Department**  
**January 23, 2012**

**Vitality and economic health of our city and region are at risk due to a lack of mobility**

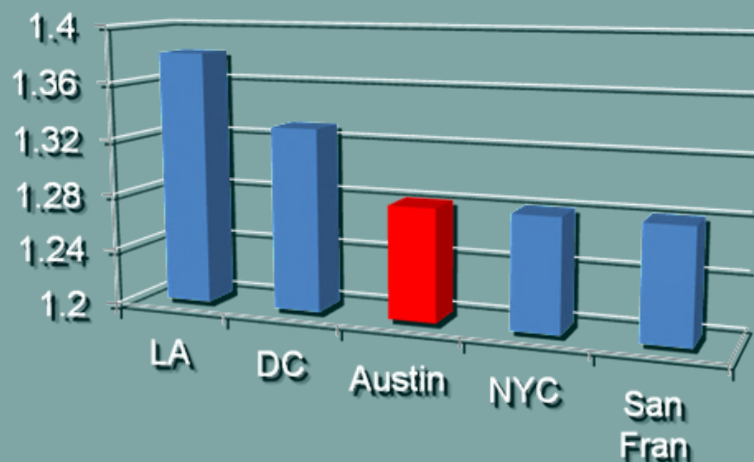
- Mobility systems serving business and cultural core are inadequate
- Healthy core is essential to vibrancy of suburbs
- New transportation investments, providing viable travel options, are needed



Central Texas Person-Hours of Delay in 2009 (Millions)



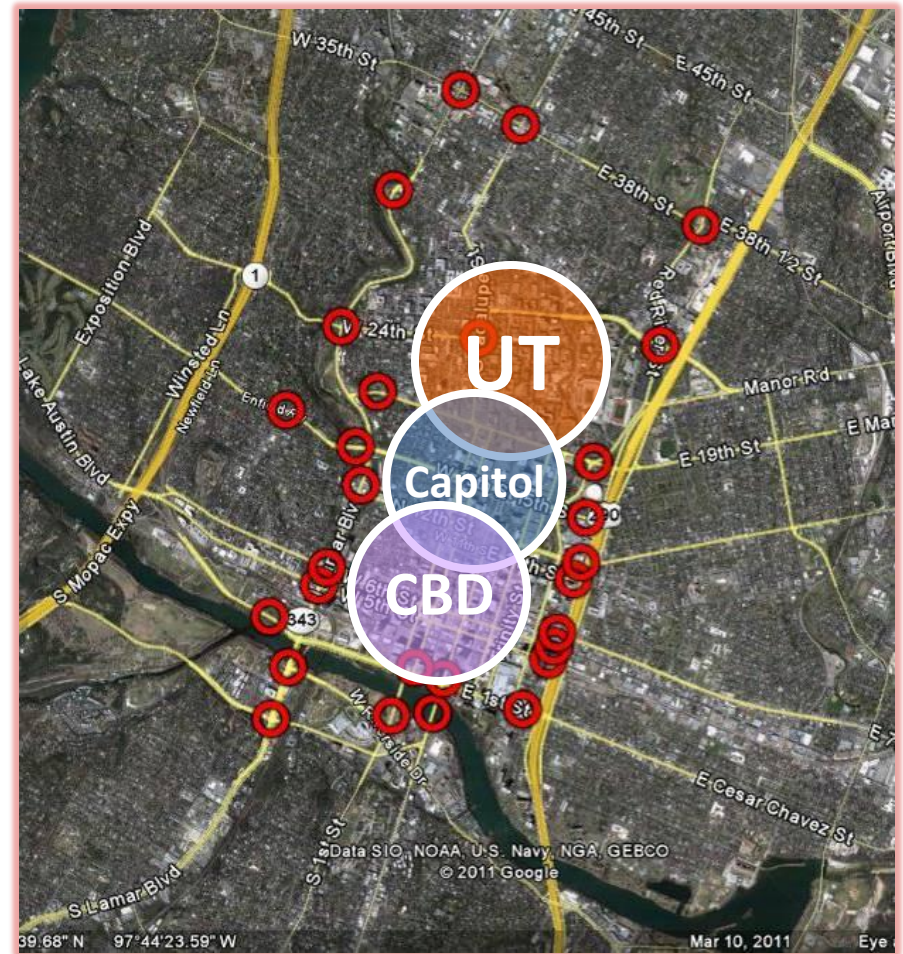
2010 US Worst Travel Time Indices



- Central Texans spend average 44 hours/year stuck in traffic
- 63% of existing companies in the region state transportation or *access to transit as a concern*

- **Constrained Gateways Surround**
  - UT
  - Capitol Complex
  - Central Business District

**2009: nearly 30% of all jobs in the Austin Region were located in 78701, 78703, 78704, 78705**



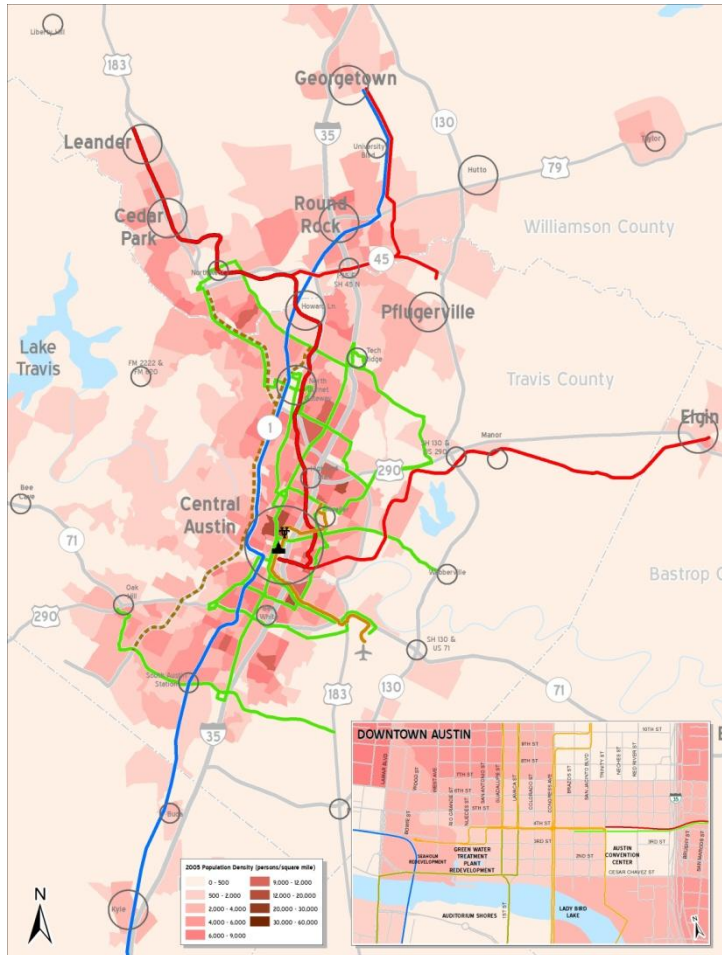
 *Congested gateway intersection*



# Austin Urban Rail System

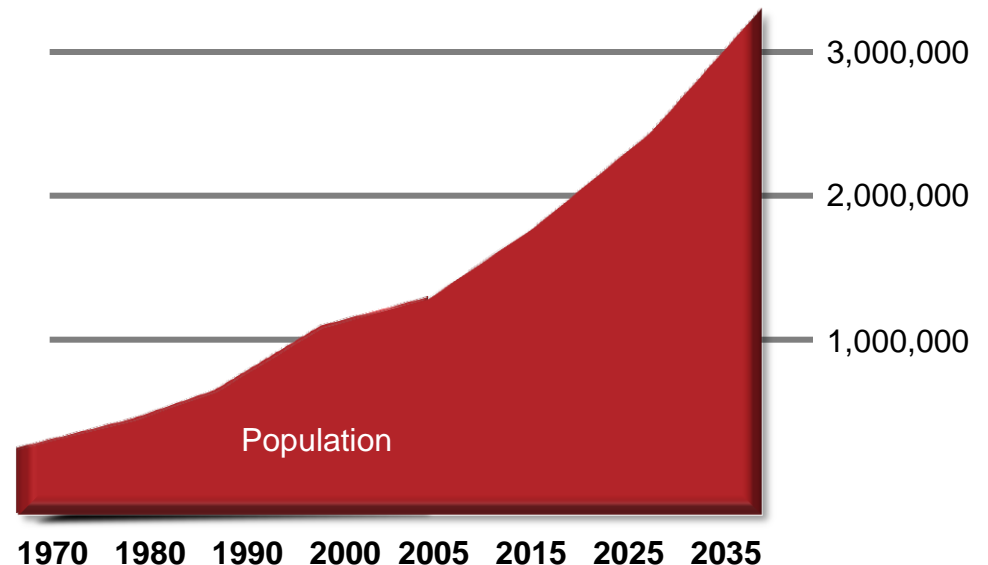
# Austin Region is Growing


## Population Density (2005 -2035)



## Our People

- Between 2005 and 2035 our regional population is projected to increase by 123%
- Population increase will result in additional 1.2M cars by 2035

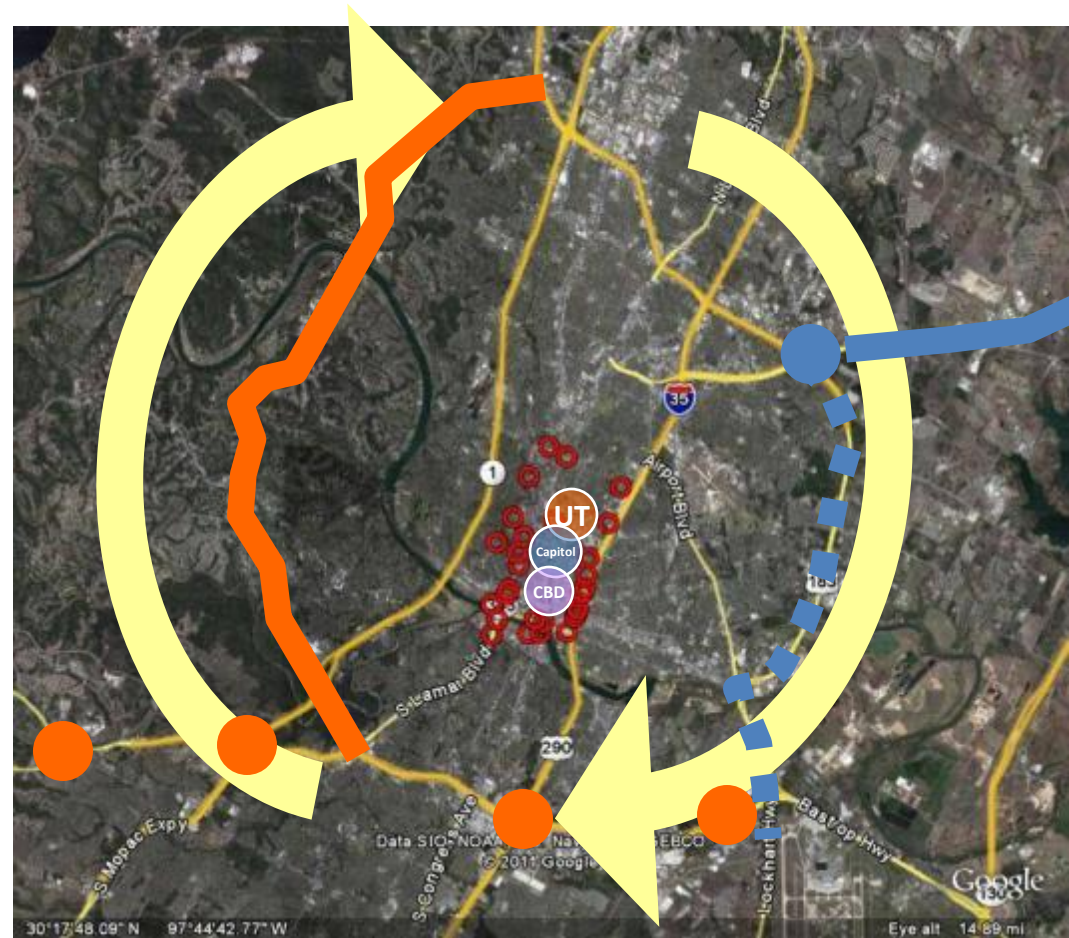




## Austin Urban Rail System

# Austin Strategic Mobility Plan : Moving Around The Core

- Interchange Completion
- US 290 improvements
- US 183 improvements
- SH 360 improvements





## **Critical Intersection Improvements**

- Lamar at 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>
- SH 71 at US 290 (Oak Hill Y)
- Dessau Rd at Parmer
- IH 35 at 51<sup>st</sup>
- Loop 360 at RM 2222
- IH 35 at 38<sup>th</sup> 1/2
- US 183 at Loyola Lane
- Uninterrupted power supply at critical intersections

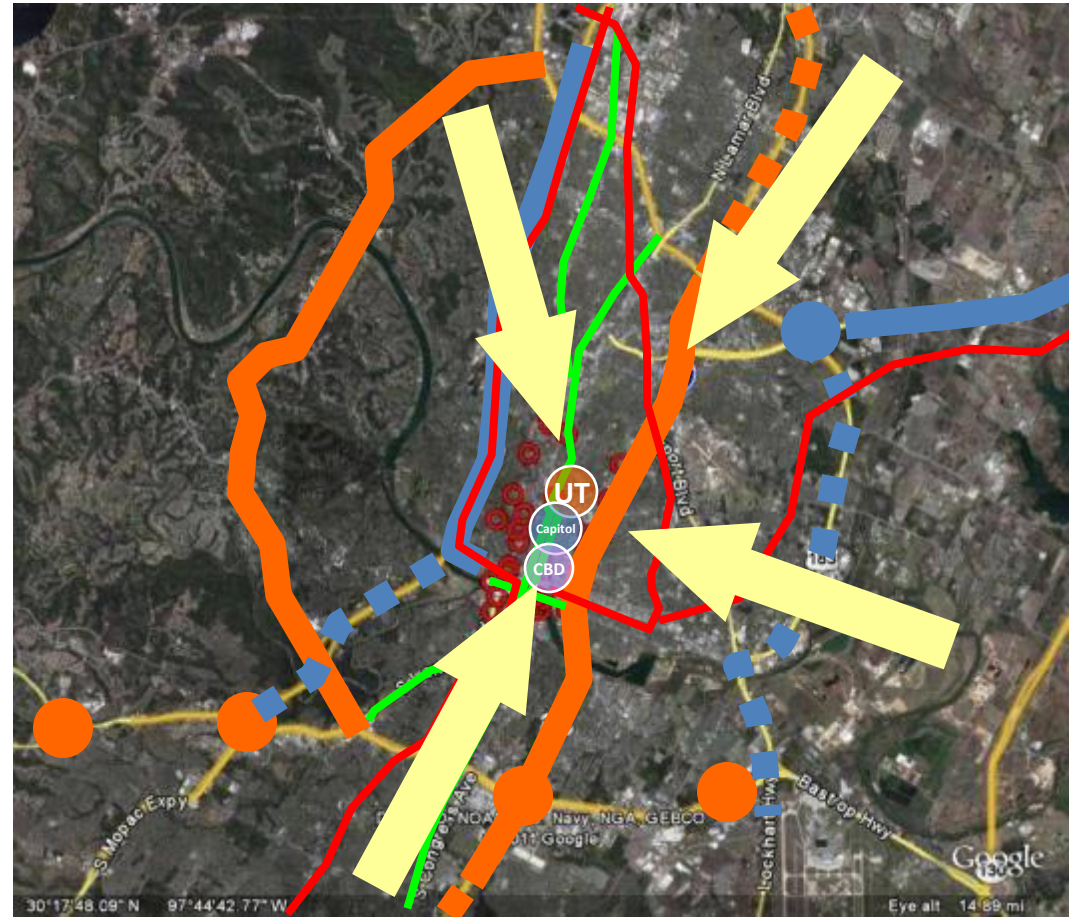




# Austin Urban Rail System

# Austin Strategic Mobility Plan : Serving The Core

- **Interchange Completion**
- **US 290 improvements**
- **US 183 improvements**
- **SH 360 improvements**
- **Arterial flow & signal retiming**
- **MoPac Express Lanes (north & south)**
- **IH 35 Express Lanes & flow improvements**
- **High Capacity Transit investments**





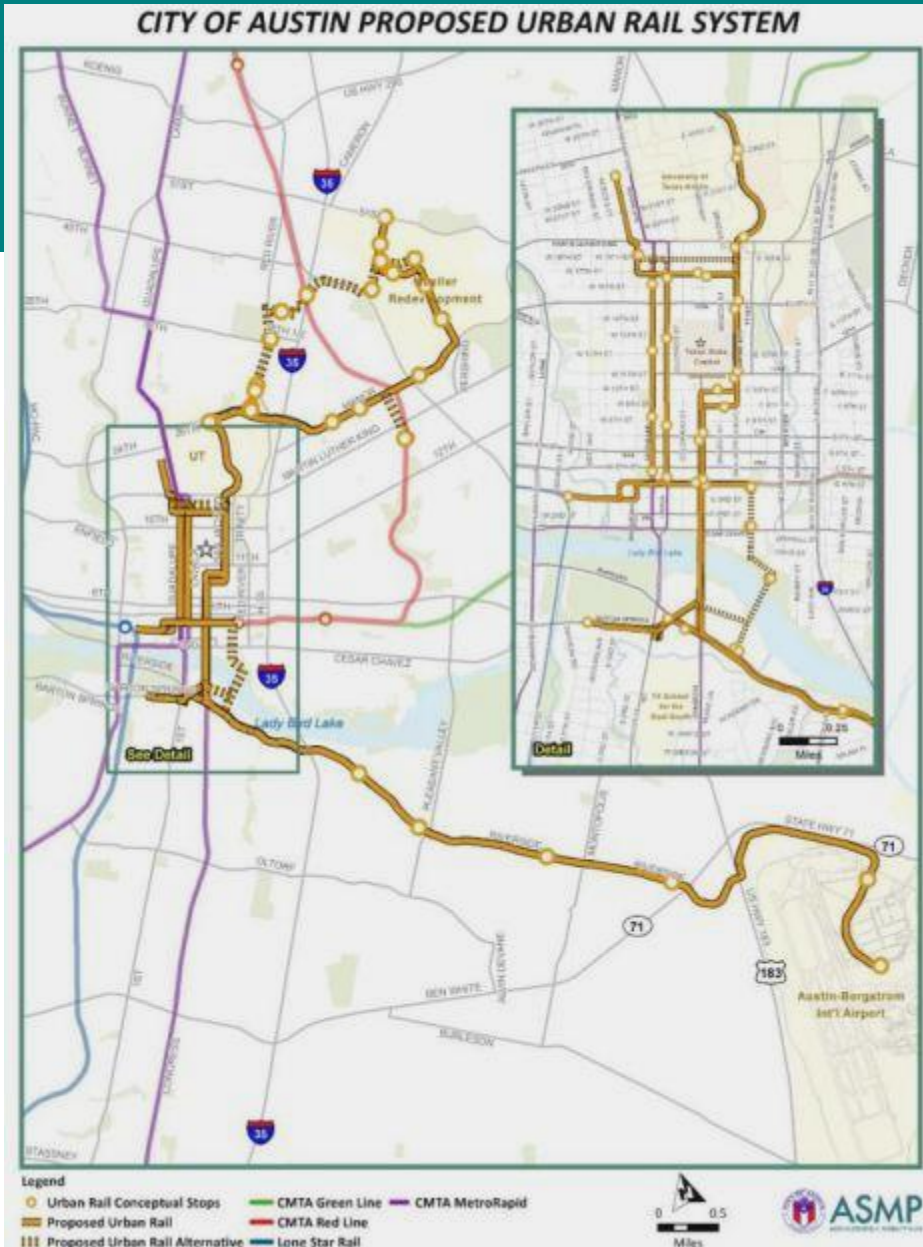
## Improve the mobility, connectivity, and sustainability of Central Austin

- Provide greater mobility options
- Improve person-moving capacity
- Improve access and linkages to major activity centers and commuter and regional rail
- Support the City's environmental, public health, and planning goals
- Encourage investment and economic development

# Urban Rail Details

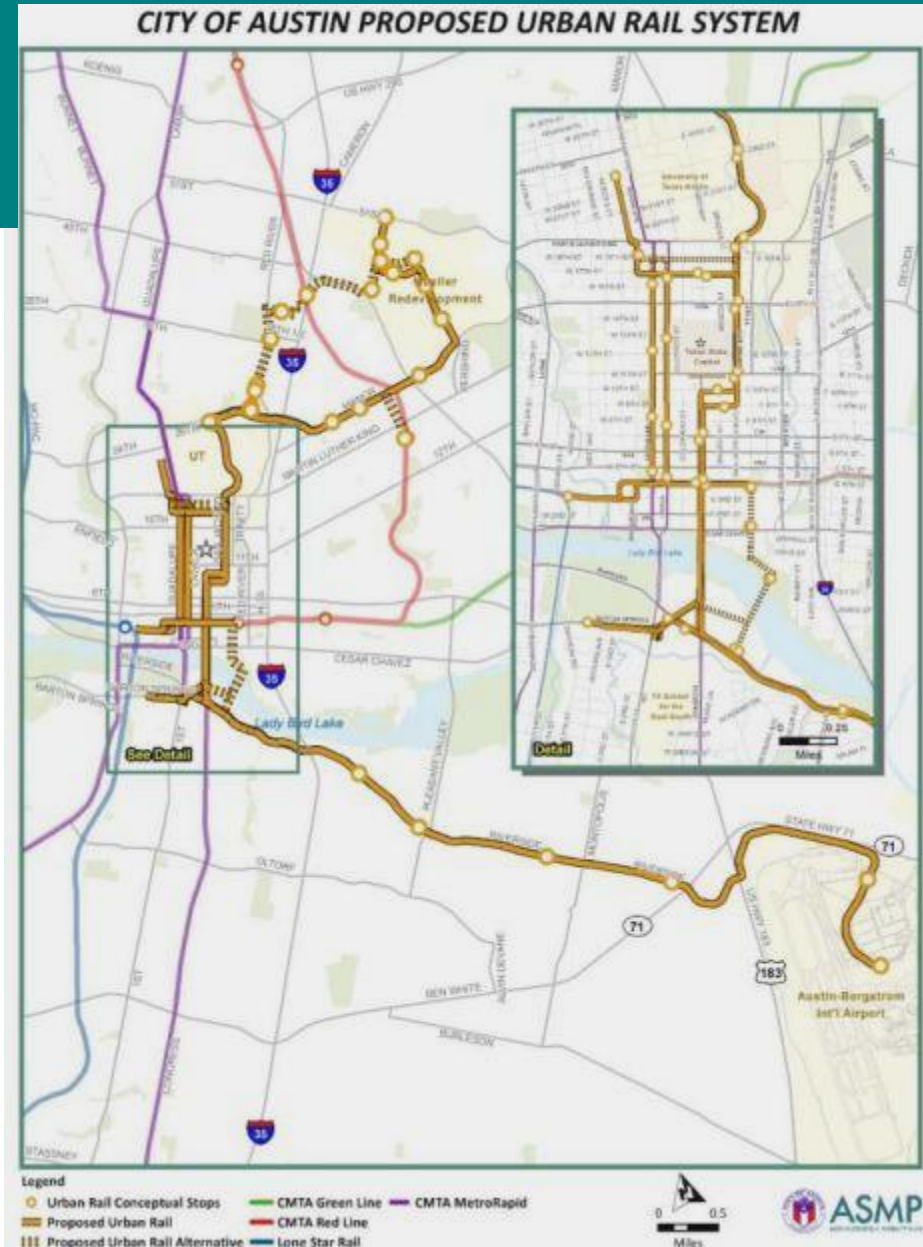
## Route:

- 16.5 miles double track
- Electric powered
- In-street shared or dedicated track-way
- 10-15 minute headways



# National Comparison

- Salt Lake City TRAX
- Denver LRT
- Seattle Sound Transit & Streetcar
- Houston Metro LRT
- Portland MAX & Streetcar
- San Jose LRT





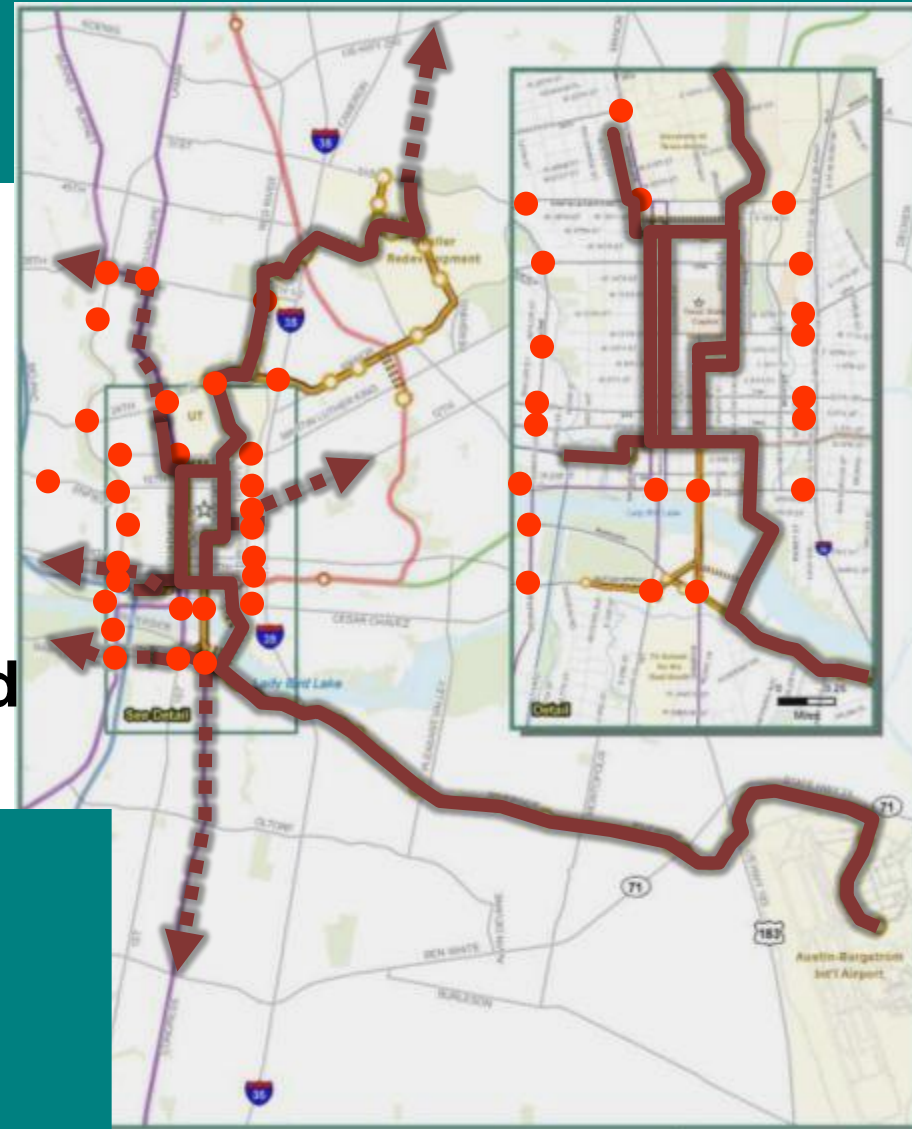
# Challenges and Opportunities

## Congestion:

- Increase person-moving capacity
- Break through ring of gateways
- Future expansions to respond to growth

### • Expansion opportunities

- Windsor Park / US 290
- Triangle
- 35th/38th Medical Complex
- Brackenridge Tract
- East Austin/Pleasant Valley
- SoCo / St. Edward's
- NE Austin/Pflugerville





## Constraint:

- Increase person-moving capacity within historically defined rights-of-way
  - Minimize impact to surrounding land uses



## Constraint:

- Increase person-moving capacity within historically defined rights-of-way
  - Minimize impact to surrounding land uses
  - Minimize need for off-vehicle infrastructure



## Constraint:

- Operate in mixed flow



## Constraint:

- Operate in mixed flow
- And, in pedestrian filled environments





## Constraint:

- Operate in dedicated lane or own track-way when possible



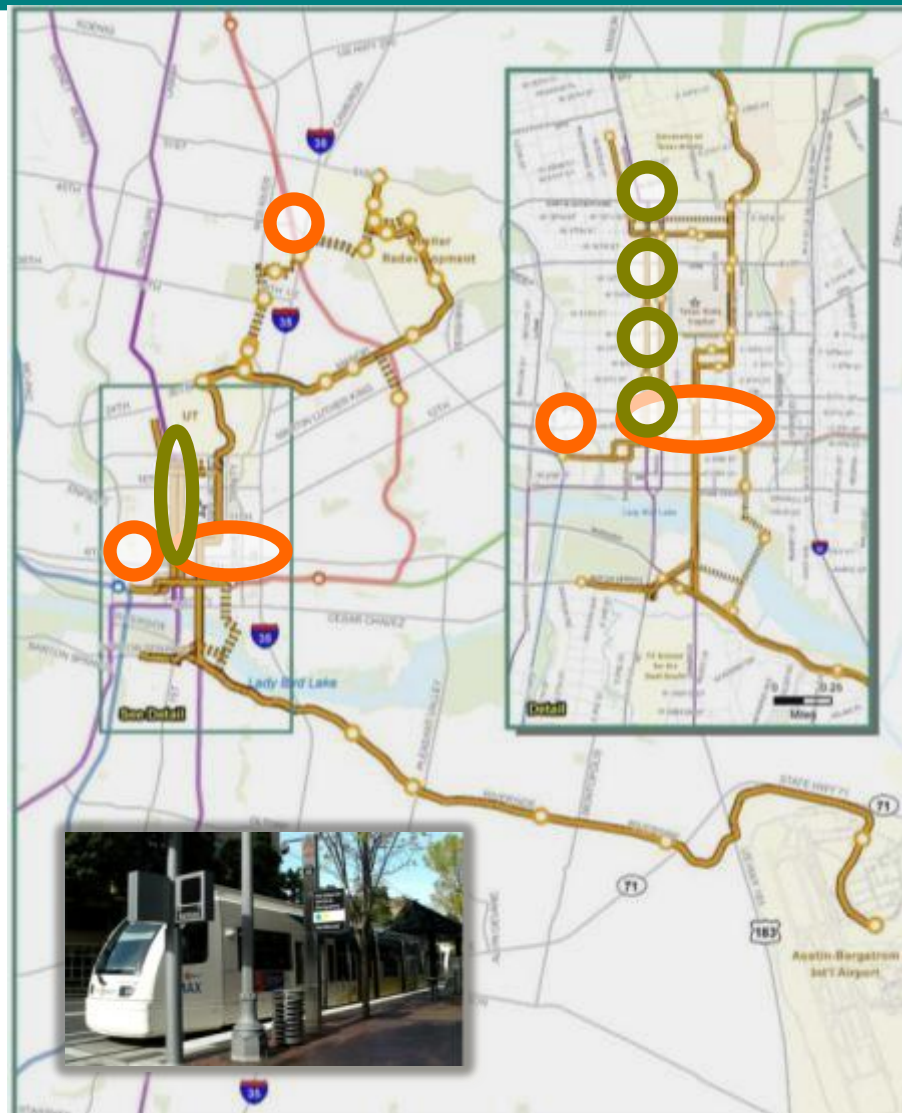
- Modern light rail and streetcar vehicles have ability to meet these challenges
  - Geometric requirements
  - Operable in mixed flow
  - Operable on dedicated track-way



### Core:

- Collection & distribution for regional/commuter rail
- Directly serve & connect employment centers

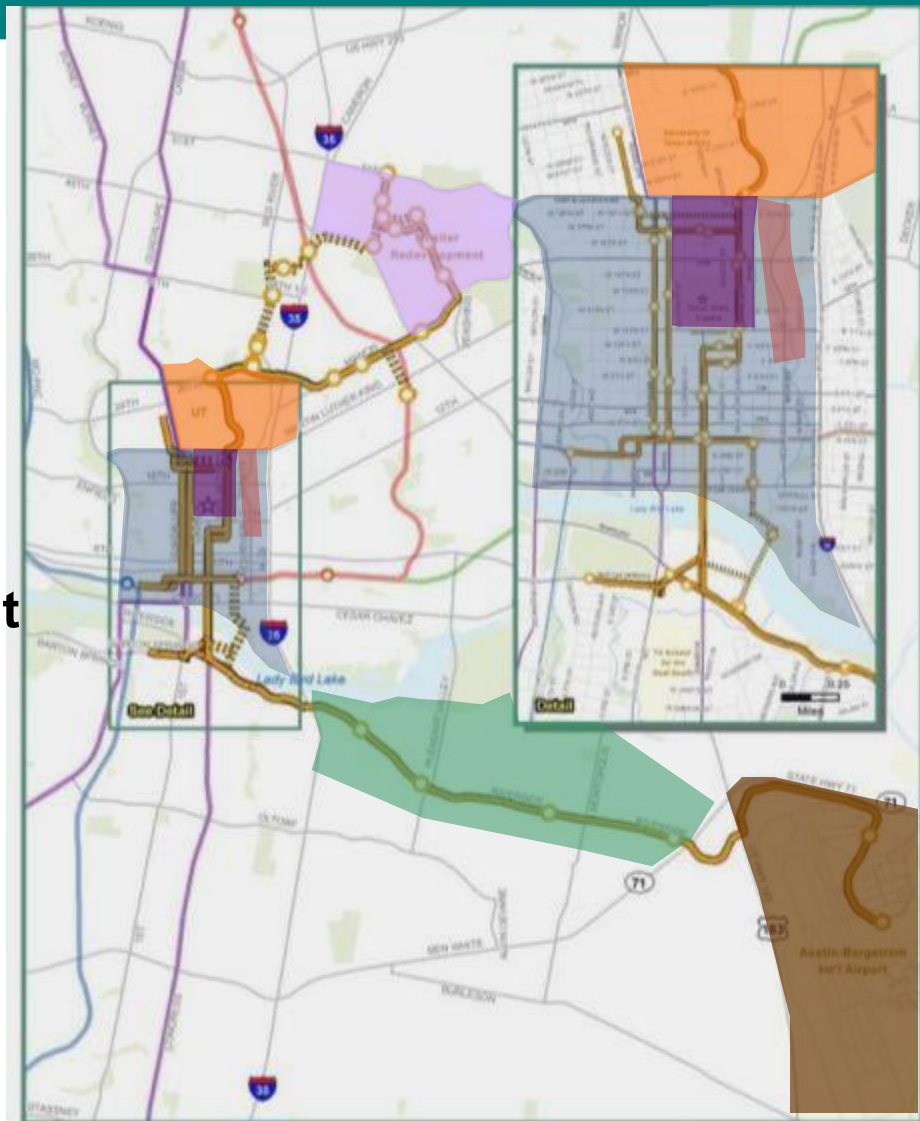
- Cross-platform connection to Regional Rail or Commuter Rail
- Shared platform with MetroRapid





## Growth:

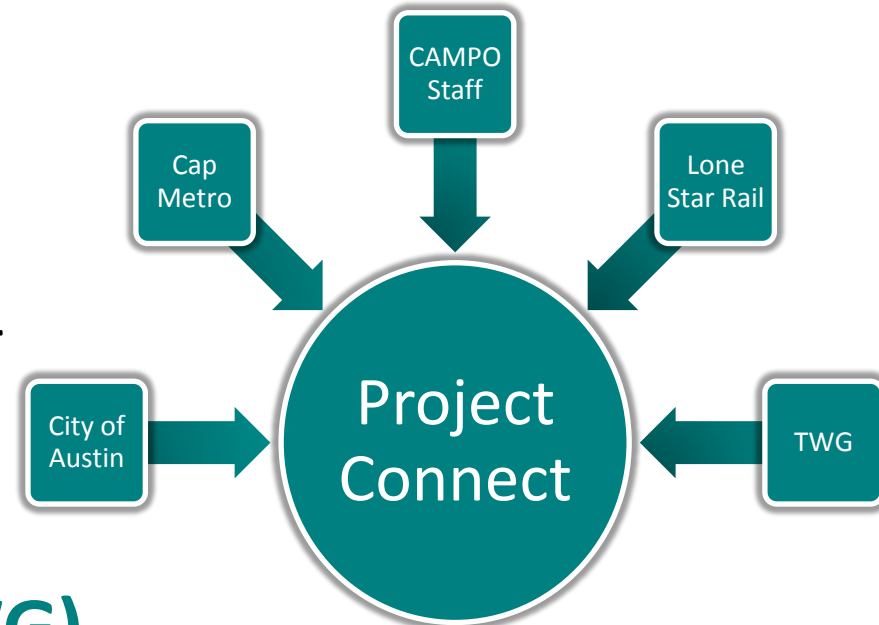
- **Accelerate & facilitate economic development**
  - Downtown Austin Plan
  - Capitol Complex Redevelopment
  - University of Texas Master Plan
  - Waller Creek Development
  - Mueller Development Plan
  - East Riverside Corridor Plan
  - ABIA Terminal Design






## Project Connect

- Regional partnership between CAMPO, Capital Metro, Lone Star Rail, and City of Austin
- Goal: build consensus on regional high-capacity transit and define system, organization, funding



## Transit Working Group (TWG)

- CAMPO Committee charged with evaluating and providing input toward a regional high-capacity transit system plan and exploring how its various components work as a system to fulfill the region's transportation and future growth needs



## Austin Urban Rail System

# Regional High-Capacity System

## RAIL

### Lone Star Rail

- Georgetown to San Antonio

### MetroRail

- Red Line to Leander
- Green Line to Manor/Elgin
- Georgetown-Round Rock 'T'

### Urban Rail

- Old Airport to New Airport

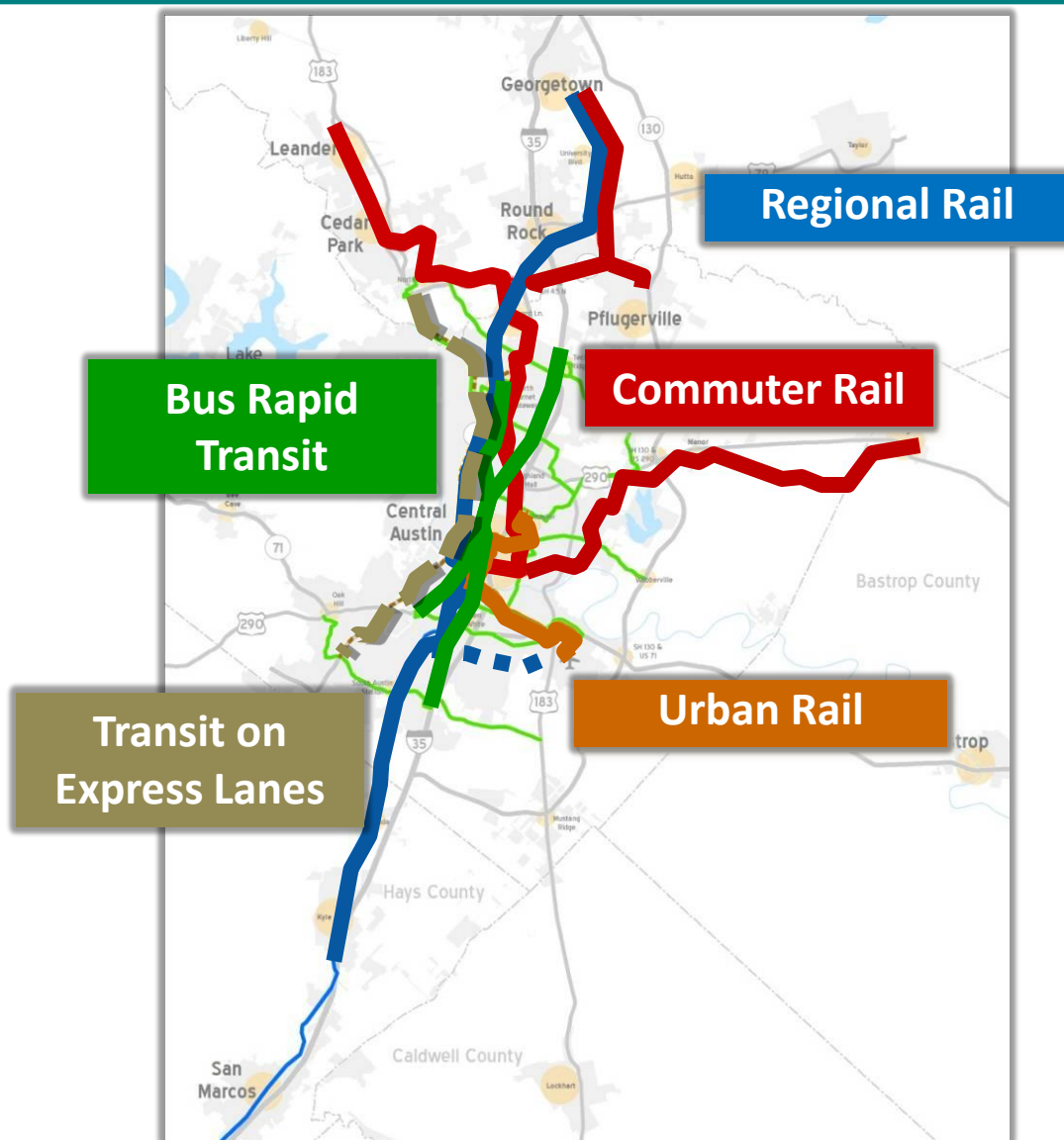
## BUS

### Bus Rapid Transit

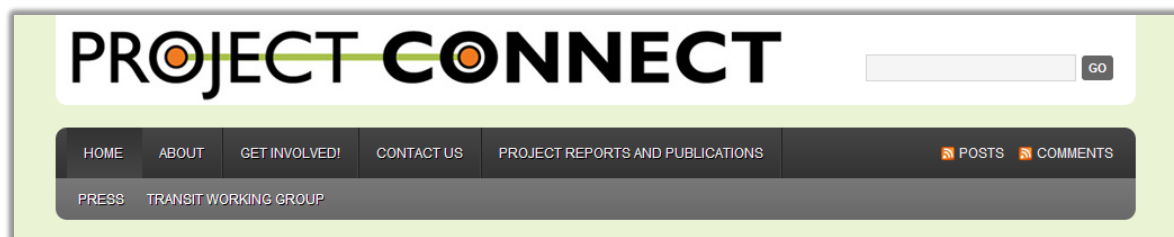
- North Lamar / South Congress
- Burnet / South Lamar

### Transit on Express Lanes

- Mopac – Downtown to Parmer



- **TWG:** Bi-weekly (Nov, Dec), Monthly (Jan – Apr)
- **Media Briefings:** Nov 18, May
- **Community Meetings:** Dec 6, 8 & 9, Mar & May
- **Webinars:** Dec '11, Mar & May '12
- **Stakeholder Outreach:** Forum (Jan/Feb), as needed
- **Website:** [www.connectcentraltexas.com](http://www.connectcentraltexas.com)



## Urban Rail Near-Term Next Steps:


- Environmental impact statement (EIS)
- Additional conceptual engineering
- First investment and funding plan

## Project Connect & Transit Working Group

- Work Oct. '11 – May 12
- Makes recommendations on regional transit priorities, funding and operations







# Austin Urban Rail System

Michael Knox


# Thank you

[www.austinstrategicmobility.com](http://www.austinstrategicmobility.com)



Michael Knox

# Austin Urban Rail System



## Austin Urban Rail System

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# Efficiency – People-Moving Capacity

